

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 16178 01 OF 02 312112Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 /068 W
-----052430 312136Z /14
O 311945Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 5453

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 16178

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR ROBERT HUNGER AND DENIS CLIFT

EUR/WE FOR BROD

FROM VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, VT
SUBJECT: ADDRESS OF POPE JOHN PAUL I TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS,
AUGUST 31, 1978

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS THE FULL TEXT OF POPE JOHN PAUL I'S
FIRST ADDRESS TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS ACCREDITED TO THE HOLY SEE,
GIVEN AT THE VATICAN ON AUGUST 31, 1978:

2. QTE. WE WARMLY THANK YOUR WORTHY SPOKESMAN FOR HIS WORDS,
WHICH WERE FULL OF DEFERENCE, OR RATHER OF GOODWILL AND TRUST.
OUR FIRST REACTION WOULD BE TO ADMIT TO YOU OUR EMBARRASSMENT
AT THESE REMARKS THAT GIVE US HONOR AND THESE SENTIMENTS THAT
GIVE US COMFORT. BUT WE ARE WELL AWARE THAT THIS HOMAGE AND
THIS APPEAL ARE ADDRESSED THROUGH US TO THE HOLY SEE, TO ITS HIGHLY
SPIRITUAL AND HUMANE MISSION, AND TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, WHOSE
CHILDREN ARE PARTICULARLY DESIROUS TO BUILD, TOGETHER WITH THEIR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 16178 01 OF 02 312112Z

BROTHERS AND SISTERS, A MORE JUST AND HARMONIOUS WORLD.

2. WE HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY HAD THE HONOR OF MAKING YOUR
ACQUAINTANCE. UNTIL NOW OUR MINISTRY WAS LIMITED TO THE
DIOCESES ENTRUSTED TO US AND THE PASTORAL DUTIES THAT IT
ENTAILED, AROUND VITTORIO VENETO AND VENICE. NONETHELESS, IT
WAS ALREADY A SHARING IN THE MINISTRY OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH.

3. BUT NOW, IN THIS SEE OF THE APOSTLE PETER, OUR MISSION HAS INDEED BECOME UNIVERSAL AND PLACES US IN RELATIONSHIP NOT ONLY WITH OUR CATHOLIC SONS AND DAUGHTERS BUT WITH ALL PEOPLES, WITH THEIR QUALIFIED REPRESENTATIVES, AND MORE PARTICULARLY WITH THE DIPLOMATS OF THE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE ESTABLISHED RELATIONS ON THIS LEVEL WITH THE HOLY SEE. ON THESE GROUNDS WE ARE VERY HAPPY TO RECEIVE YOU HERE AND TO TELL YOU OF OUR ESTEEM FOR YOU, OUR TRUST IN YOU AND OUR UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR NOBLE ROLE. WE ARE HAPPY ALSO TO GREET THROUGH YOU EACH ONE OF THE NATIONS THAT YOU REPRESENT. WE LOOK ON EACH OF THEM WITH RESPECT AND AFFECTION, WITH AN ARDENT DESIRE FOR THEIR PROGRESS AND PEACE. THESE NATIONS WILL BECOME STILL MORE FAMILIAR TO US AS WE MEET NOT ONLY THEIR BISHOPS AND FAITHFUL, BUT ALSO THEIR CIVIL LEADERS.

4. EVERYBODY KNOWS HOW MUCH WAS ACHIEVED IN THIS FIELD OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BY OUR VENERATED PREDECESSOR. DURING HIS PONTIFICATE THE MISSIONS OF WHICH YOU ARE THE HEADS GREW IN NUMBER. WE TOO WISH THESE RELATIONS TO BE EVER MORE CORDIAL AND FRUITFUL FOR THE GOOD OF YOUR FELLOW-CITIZENS, FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHURCH IN YOUR COUNTRIES, AND FOR THE GOOD OF UNIVERSAL CONCORD. MOREOVER, THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT YOU CAN HAVE WITH EACH OTHER AT THE HOLY SEE ALSO SERVE UNDERSTANDING AND PEACE. WE OFFER YOU OUR SINCERE COLLABORATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MEANS THAT BELONG TO US.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 16178 01 OF 02 312112Z

5. IN THE RANGE OF DIPLOMATIC POSTS YOUR ROLE HERE IS UNIQUE, JUST AS THE MISSION AND COMPETENCE OF THE HOLY SEE ARE UNIQUE. OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE NO TEMPORAL GOODS TO EXCHANGE, NO ECONOMIC INTERESTS TO DISCUSS, SUCH AS YOUR STATES HAVE. OUR POSSIBILITIES FOR DIPLOMATIC INTERVENTIONS ARE LIMITED AND OF A SPECIAL CHARACTER. THEY DO NOT INTERFERE WITH PURELY TEMPORAL, TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS, WHICH ARE MATTERS FOR YOUR GOVERNMENTS. IN THIS WAY, OUR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS TO YOUR HIGHEST CIVIL AUTHORITIES, FAR FROM BEING A SURVIVAL FROM THE PAST, ARE A WITNESS TO OUR DEEP-SEATED RESPECT FOR LAWFUL TEMPORAL POWER, AND TO OUR LIKELY INTEREST IN THE HUMANE CAUSES THAT TEMPORAL POWER IS INTENDED TO ADVANCE. SIMILARLY, YOU ARE HERE YOUR GOVERNMENT'S SPOKESMEN AND WATCHFUL WITNESSES OF THE HOLY SEE'S SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY. ON BOTH SIDES THERE IS PRESENCE, RESPECT, EXCHANGE AND COLLABORATION, WITHOUT CONFUSING RESPECTIVE ROLES.

6. OUR SERVICES, CONSEQUENTLY, ARE OF TWO ORDERS. IT CAN BE, IF WE ARE INVITED PARTICIPATION BY THE HOLY SEE AS SUCH, AT THE LEVEL OF YOUR GOVERNMENTS OR THE INTERNATIONAL ENTITIES, IN THE SEARCH FOR BETTER SOLUTIONS TO THE GREAT PROBLEMS THAT SEE

AT STAKE DETENTE,DISARMAMENT, PEACE, JUSTICE, HUMANITARIAN
MEASURE AND AID,DEVELOPMENT, ETC. OUR REPRESENTATIVES OR
DELEGATES TAKE PART IN THAT SEARCH, AS YOU KNOW, SPEAKING
FREELY AND DISINTERESTEDLY. THAT IS ONE APPRECIABLE FORM OF
COOPERATION OR MUTUAL AID THAT THE HOLY SEE HAS THE POSSIBILITY
OF CONTRIBUTING, THANKS TO THE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION THAT
IT ENJOYS AND THE REPRESENTATION OF THE WHOLE OF THE CATHOLIC
WORLD THAT IT ENSURES.WE ARE READY TO CONTINUE IN THIS FIELD
THE DIPLOMATIC AND INTERNTIONAL ACTIVITY ALREADY UNDERTAKEN, TO
THE EXTENT THAT PARTICIPATION BY THE HOLY SEE PROVES DEISRED
AND FRUITFUL, AND IS IN CONFORMITY WITH OUR MEANS.

7. BUT OUR ACTIVITY AT THE SERVICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY IS ALSO-WE SHOULD SAY,CHIEFLY-SITUATED ON ANOTHER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ROME 16178 01 OF 02 312112Z

LEVEL,ONE THAT COULD BE MORE SPECIFICALLY CALLED PASTORAL AND
WHICH BELONGS PROPERLY TO THE CHURCH.IT IS A MATTER OF CONTRI-
BUTING, THROUGH DOCUMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE APOSTOLIC SEE
AND OF OUR COLLABORATORS THROUGHOUT THE CHURCH, TO FORMING
CONSCIENCES-CHIEFLY THE CONSCIENCES OF CHRISTIANS BUT ALSO
THOSE OF MEN AND WOMEN OF GOOD WILL, AND THROUGH THESE FORMING
A WIDER PUBLIC OPINION-REGARDING THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES
THAT GUARANTEE AUTHENTIC CIVILIZAION AND REAL BROTHERHOOD BETWEEN
PEOPLES. THESE PRINCIPLES ARE RESPECT FOR ONE'S NEIGHBOR, FOR
HIS LIFE AND FOR HIS DIGNITY,CARE FOR HIS SPIRITUAL AND SOCIAL
PROGRESS, PATIENCE AND THE DESIRE FOR RECONCILIATION IN THE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 16178 02 OF 02 312107Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 /068 W
-----052285 312136Z /14

O 311945Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5454

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 16178

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR ROBERT HUNTER AND DENIS CLIFT

FRAGILE BUILDING OF PEACE, IN SHORT ALL THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF LIFE IN SOCIETY AND INTERNATIONAL LIFE AS THEY HAVE BEEN SET FORTH IN THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION GAUDIUM ET SPES AND IN SO MANY MESSAGES BY THE LATE POPE PAUL VI. SUCH ATTITUDES, WHICH IN THE LOGIC OF EVANGELICAL LOVE THE CHRISTIAN FAITHFUL TAKE OR SHOULD TAKE FOR THEIR SALVATION, CONTRIBUTE TO THE GRADUAL TRANSFORMATION OF CLOSER AND CLOSER HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS, THE SOCIAL FABRIC, AND INSTITUTIONS. THEY HELP PEOPLES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ENSURE MORE EFFECTIVELY THE CONDITIONS FOR THE COMMON GOOD AND TO DISCOVER THE FINAL MEANING OF THEIR FORWARD MARCH. THEY HAVE A CIVIC AND POLITICAL IMPACT. YOUR COUNTRIES ARE TRYING TO BUILD A MODERN CIVILIZATION, DEDICATING TO THIS TASK EFFORTS THAT ARE OFTEN INGENIOUS AND GENEROUS AND HAVE OUR FULL UNDERSTANDING AND ENCOURAGEMENT, AS LONG AS THEY ARE IN CONFORMITY WITH THE MORAL LAWS WRITTEN BY THE CREATOR IN THE HUMAN HEART. BUT WE HAVE CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S HELP. THE HOLY SEE WILL EMPLOY ALL ITS STRENGTH IN THAT WORK. IT ALSO DESERVES YOUR FULL INTEREST.

8. FROM TODAY ON, OUR MOST CORDIAL WISHES ACCOMPANY YOU IN THE MISSION THAT WILL BE YOURS WITH US, AS IT WAS WITH POPE VI. AND WE INVOKE UPON EACH OF YOU, ON YOUR FAMILIES, ON THE COUNTRIES THAT YOU REPRESENT AND ON ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 16178 02 OF 02 312107Z

ABUNDANT BLESSINGS FROM THE MOST HIGH. UNQTE.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: 9. COMMENT WHILE MESSAGE BASICALLY UNDERLINES POPE'S DESIRE TO CONTINUE PAULINE TRADITION IN FOREIGN POLICY, IT APPEARS TO US THAT HE ALSO PRESERVES HIS FREEDOM OF ACTION TO ACCELERATE OR REDUCE HIS AND THE VATICAN'S ROLE IN THE FIELD, BUT MORE IMPORTANT IT MARKS A CLEAR DEPARTURE FROM RECENT VATICAN STATEMENTS REGARDING THE HOLY SEE'S ACTIVITIES IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPHERE. WE ARE STRUCK BY THE POPE'S CLEAR SEPARATION OF THE TEMPORAL AND SPIRITUAL DOMAINS AND OF VATICAN ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE TWO LEVELS. IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE ADDRESS UNDERSCORES THE SEPARATION OF THE TEMPORAL AND SPIRITUAL WORLDS, RENOUNCES HOLY SEE "INTERFERENCE IN TEMPORAL, TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS", AND CORRESPONDINGLY APPEALS FOR MUTUAL RESPECT FOR CHURCH/STATE SPHERES OF COMPETENCE. THIS IS FURTHER EMPHASIZED IN THOSE PARTS OF THE ADDRESS WHERE THE PONTIFF SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT: THE VATICAN'S POSSIBILITIES FOR INTERVENTION ARE LIMITED WHEN ISSUES DEAL WITH TEMPORAL MATTERS, BUT THAT ON THE SPIRITUAL PLANE THE "HOLY SEE WILL EMPLOY ALL ITS STRENGTH". MOREOVER, VATICAN ACTIVITIES AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL SHALL BE CONTINUED TO THE EXTENT THEY PROVE DESIRABLE AND FRUITFUL, AND POSSIBLE WITHIN ITS AVAILABLE MEANS.

AT THE PASTORAL LEVEL NO SUCH LIMITATIONS ARE PERCEIVED, DESPITE
CIVIL AND POLITICAL IMPACT, BECAUSE HOLY SEE SACTION IS AIMED AT
FORMING CONSCIENCES AND IN STATING FUNDAMENTAL MORAL PRINCIPLES.
END CONFIDENTIAL.GARDNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RELIGIOUS LEADERS, TEXTS, CEREMONIAL MESSAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME16178
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780356-0713
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978083/aaaaacfy.tel
Line Count: 228
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b61ba45c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1638396
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDRESS OF POPE JOHN PAUL I TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AUGUST 31, 1978 BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PGOV, VT, (JOHN PAUL I, POPE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b61ba45c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014